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My name is Gage Salicki, and I'm a former high school social studies teacher who taught at Bulkeley High School in Hartford. I am writing today in support of Raised Bill 948, An Act Addressing Education Funding and Racial Equity in Connecticut. As a Connecticut public school educator, I have seen firsthand the impact that funding inequity has had on my students. A lack of funding for basic supplies in our school constantly undercut student achievement. We would go weeks without paper, didn't have the resources for certain staff positions, and much, much more.

That's why I believe this bill must be passed. Funding inequities across and within our schools are preventing our students--particularly English Language Learners, students of color and children from low-income families--from getting the excellent education they deserve. Connecticut students have faced unprecedented hardship over the past year, and cannot wait multiple years to attend a fully-funded school.